

Student Participation in Research and Unequal Relationships

In line with section 2.2.9 and 3.1.18(a) of the National Statement researchers must ensure that the outlines the mechanisms that will be put in place to minimise the risk of students experiencing pressure or coercion if they are invited to take part in research being conducted by their course lecturer, convenor or tutor. The presence of an unequal relationship has the potential for students to feel pressured or coerced into participating in research being conducted by their lecturer, convenor or tutor. Students may perceive the act of non-participation as having an impact (or the potential to) on their course grades or exam results and as a result provide their consent to participate. Below are the HREAP/HREC recommended practices for the recruitment of students in research:

Recruitment during lectures, tutorials, presentations or moodle

- **Email:** A school administrator should be asked to distribute an invitation email with a copy of the participant information statement and consent form attached to students on the research team's behalf before students attend the course lectures, tutorials or presentations. To remove the potential for students to perceive the act of non-participation as having an impact on their course results the email used to introduce the template must clearly specify that participation in the research is not a course requirement and their decision not to participate will not impact on their course grades. The template wording used in the email invitation or recruitment advertisement examples on the Human Ethics page must be used.
- **During Lectures:** A study advertisement placed in the lecture theatre near the entry exit that allows students to elect whether to collect one. To remove the potential for pressure or coercion the lecturer course convenor or tutor must not specifically introduce the research project during lectures or presentations. To remove the potential for students to perceive the act of non-participation as having an impact on their course results the email used to introduce the template must clearly specify that participation in the research is not a course requirement and their decision not to participate will not impact on their course grades.
- **Moodle:** Research study advertisements can be placed in the announcements, news forums and site news sections of moodle and the student recruitment online platform post template provided on the human ethics forms and templates page.
- **School Based Participant Pools:** Formal student participant pools set up for the purpose of research recruitment exist in some schools. Researchers should enquire with their school administrators to establish what the process is for accessing these recruitment pools.

Informed Consent

- The Participant Information Statement and Consent Form must clarify that participation in the research study is separate from participation in the UNSW Course, and that choosing to/not to participate will not have any impact on students' grades in the course. If the CI is the lecturer, convenor or tutor of the course, another member of the research team should be listed at Section 10 of the Participant Information Statement & Consent Form for participants to contact for questions about their participation in the research.
- For anonymous surveys, the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form should be attached to the start of the survey so that students can read through the information about the project before completing the survey. Completion of the survey is taken as implied consent.
- For interviews/focus groups/observations/experiments/interventions, the Participant

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Information Statement and Consent Form should be attached to the recruitment invitation email or should be provided to those who respond to the recruitment poster before data collection. Written consent should be obtained before data collection.

- If you intend to access students' course grades or Weighted Average Marks (WAMS), informed consent must be obtained from students, and you must explain to participants in the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form the format this data will be accessed in (e.g. non-identifiable/identifiable).

Data Collection

The data collection for the research should not take place during course time. If it is necessary for this occur, the researchers must justify:

- Any course time taken up by the research tasks;
- How the data collection will be completed during course time in such a way that students do not experience coercion or pressure to participate (e.g. who will administer the data collection tool, what options are available for those who choose not to participate);
- How students who do not choose to participate in the study will not be disadvantaged.

Access to Student Data for Research Purposes

- If you intend to access students' course grades or WAMs, outline who will provide this data to the research team, and in what format (e.g. non-identifiable/identifiable).

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Student Recruitment: Email Invitation Template

Email Subject: **[Insert HC reference number]** Invitation to participate in research

Dear **[Insert Name]** course students,

Research Study Title: **[Insert Study Title]**

Researchers at UNSW are conducting a project about **[Insert the aim of the research]** and students of the **[Insert Name]** course are being invited to take part.

Participation in this research is not a requirement of the course and if you decide not to take part your decision will not have an impact on your assessments or course grades. Taking part in this research study is optional and you may choose not to take part.

If you are interested the research project is looking for people who want to take part in this research and who are:

- Enrolled in **[insert name]** course;
- **[Insert inclusion/exclusion criteria]**

If you decide to take part in the research, a full description of the research is included in the attached Participant Information Statement and Consent Form. Participation in this research will take approximately **[insert time commitment required]**. A short summary of the research activities you will be asked to complete will be conducted outside of your coursework:

- **[Insert a description of the research activities]**

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the research study please contact:

Name:	[Insert research contact name]
Email:	[Insert research contact email]
Phone:	[Insert research contact phone]

This research has been reviewed and approved by either the University of New South Wales Human Research Ethics Committee or a Human Research Advisory Panel. If you have any complaints or concerns about the research study please email humanethics@unsw.edu.au or phone +61 2 9385 6222 quoting the following number HC [insert .

Yours sincerely,

[Insert school administrator name]

[Insert school administrator contact details]

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Student Recruitment: Online Platform Invitation Template

Online Platform Post Subject: **[Insert HC reference number]** Invitation to participate in research

Research Study Title: **[Insert Study Title]**

Researchers at UNSW are conducting a project about **[Insert the aim of the research]** and students of the **[Insert Name]** course are being invited to take part. Participation in this research is not a requirement of the course and if you decide not to take part your decision will not have an impact on your assessments or course grades. Taking part in this research study is optional and you may choose not to take part.

If you are interested the research project is looking for people who want to take part in this research and who are:

- Enrolled in **[insert name]** course;
- **[Insert inclusion/exclusion criteria]**

If you decide to take part in the research, a full description of the research is included in the attached Participant Information Statement and Consent Form a copy can be downloaded using this link **[include hyperlink]**. Participation in this research will take approximately **[insert time commitment required]**. A short summary of the research activities you will be asked to complete will be conducted outside of your coursework:

- **[Insert a description of the research activities]**

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the research study, please contact **[insert research contact details]**.